



Fire Chief Steve Earley
3085 St. Lawrence Ave
Riverside CA 92504
951-826-5321
www.riversideca.gov/fire



Retirements

Deputy Fire Marshal Joan Breeding-Letbetter has retired after 23 years of dedicated service with the City. Her last day of work was Nov 19. There was a Department retirement luncheon held for her on Nov 17 at the Old Spaghetti Factory as well as a dessert reception at City Hall. In addition, Mayor Loveridge honored Joan with a proclamation at the City Council meeting on Nov 17.



Engineer Mario Miranda retired Nov 26. We would like to congratulate him on 33 years of dedicated service to the City of Riverside Fire Department. Mario has been instrumental in many areas: he started the Fire Department's Honor Guard which is now recognized at national events; his famous "firehouse meals"; and his passion for training of our personnel on Truck 1. These are but a few of the memories that Mario leaves with us. Please join us in wishing Engineer Miranda well in his retirement.



Email from Cathy Williams to all personnel on Nov 5: Yes, we WON Best Chili tied with IT. And Best Booth tied with two others who I can't remember right now cuz I'm too excited!!

You are all incredible!! It was a blast!! The team effort and support has been amazing. I want to thank the following:

Our Chili team Station 10 C shift Cutshall, Casteneda and Naron. They are fabulous. I think we won Best Booth because of the Dutch oven cooking on a BBQ. It was awesome!!

Long Live Ed Teran's memory.

Station 1 Blair, Coryell and Selk who help set up and tear down. Your help was very much appreciated.

Margaret and Roni and all of Prevention (Letbetter, Jerz, Arendas, Moore, Munoz, Sabatello) We had 100% participation from Prevention. They are the BEST and I am proud.

Chief Earley, Chief Esparza, Chief Pentz, Chief Martinez, Chief Bock, Chief Campos, Captain Delahoya, Captain Gabler, Captain Holloway, Engineer Odebralski and "Civilian" Anna Hauldren J and RCFA. Thank you all for your help and support. If I forgot anyone I apologize.

Our department ROCKS!!! Thank you all so much for making this such a success! I am Proud to be part of this Department!!





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Email from Cindy Jensen (wife of retired Division Chief Chris Jensen) to Linda Daugherty in Training sent Nov 4:

Chris is doing wonderful. He can drive again. This last week is the first week he felt back to normal. They took a blood test ten minutes after his surgery. The count for the calcium that he was producing was way too high. Eventually his organs would have started shutting down. Your count is supposed to be 15 to 39, When we discovered his problem in May it was 389. When he went into surgery it was about 289. That is why they waited so long for surgery because they were working with him to watch his calcium intake and get it down. They would take blood tests every week to see his progress. Ten minutes after surgery his count was 42. Praise God! He will continue to be monitored for the rest of his life by blood tests. The Dr. told me that the chances of this happening again to Chris would be like lighting striking twice in the same place. He feels great!

I am not doing so well at the present time. I have had a collapsed left lung for 6 weeks now. I have had a really bad cough that I got from Rakiah. I had a root canal Monday that is still giving me pain and I also fell getting out of the tub a couple of days ago. I tore ligaments in my left knee and sprained it as well. I am on crutches and can't drive. I am swollen from my ankle to my thigh.

The good news is that Chris and I are taking turns needing to be driven around and taking care of. I guess the both of us are a full time job. Poor Rakiah. She can't wait to go to College. She will graduate in June. We are very grateful for all the love and kinds words of encouragement from our friends and loved ones. Some of the firemen have even offered to mow our lawn. Chris feels wonderful now and besides he needs something to do! Please pass this information on to all of the Dept. and retired folks, as I know they want to hear this update as well. We so appreciate your prayers and love.

Cindy

December Birthdays

Tim Beeler	12/2
Carl Colby	12/30
Linda Daugherty	12/3
Brian Davis	12/21
Denise Delgado	12/4
Rob Foy	12/15
Leroy Geohagen	12/28
Jeff Lewis	12/27
Bob Markin	12/9
David Montoya	12/6
Frank Smith	12/27
Chuck Tasker	12/28
Bruce Vanderhorst	12/19
Bob Ward	12/6



Accomplishments

12 month practical: David Greyslock, Josh Lavin, Bobby Redondo





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Email from Trey Janeway to all RFD Personnel on Nov 8:

"I would like to thank all of you for your support in this difficult time. It means a lot to me. Thank you all. I loved my father very much and miss him dearly. The loss of my Dad came suddenly without much warning, and to say the least my brother and I were not ready for my Dads passing. It was definitely a shock. I was lucky to have a good relationship with my Dad and like many of you have heard before from other people, "I wish I had more time with him".

Many of you have offered your help and have asked if there is anything you can do. The only thing I can think of is this. If you are fortunate enough to have your parents or loved ones alive and well, go build another good memory with the family and people you have in your life. I know things can get busy with your spouse, girlfriend, boyfriend, kids and life. Try to find some time to build a good memory with your parents. You never know what tomorrow brings; the future is not certain, it's a gift. Take your parents out to dinner to a place they have always wanted to try, a play that they have always wanted to see, or even a vacation to the place they have always wanted to go. In the end all you have in pictures and memories. Thank you again for all of your support." Warmly, Trey

Email from Eng Nick Navarro on Nov 28 to all RFD personnel: "Good morning, Many of you know that my wife Michelle was diagnosed with Stage 2 breast cancer in March of this year. She has had a very difficult journey battling this last 8 months. I just wanted to share that she has recently been considered currently cancer free!!!! She still has 6 months more of what we affectionately refer to as "little chemo", has to take a pill called Tamoxifen for another 5 years and some other minor stuff, but it all pales in comparison to the great news.

I just wanted to send a shout of Thanks to everyone for your support of prayers, words of encouragement and friendly thoughts towards my family.

Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and have a Merry Christmas season!!!!"

Thank you letter from Kerry Warren, Associate Pastor-Kids Quest, Grove Community Church on Nov 4: "From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank you again for partnering with the Grove Community Church in our annual Halloween alternative, Trunk 'N Treat. We greatly appreciate your company coming out and showing support to our church and community by bringing one of your fire engines out that night. We would especially like to thank Deputy Chief Oran Pentz and the Riverside Orangecrest Fire Station #11 for the support they demonstrated for our event. This year's event saw an estimate of 10-12,000 people come to the fun and safe environment at the Grove Community Church, which we could not have accomplished without your partnership. Thank you for benefiting our church and community in this way."

CHOG Drill

RFD Haz Mat team participated in the quarterly CHOG (County Hazardous Materials Operations Group) hosted by Riverside County Sheriff at Kaiser Hospital Riverside. Our team was given a scenario involving an explosive device/dirty bomb with several injuries. Others scenarios included: leaking chlorine tanks, suicide car bomb, and a liquid nitrogen leak.



Cross Fit Program

The department is introducing the Cross Fit program as an option for physical fitness. Mark Thompson, Justin Flagg, and Steve Loner are the official department trainers. They will be visiting fire stations during November to demonstrate the program and answer questions.



Big Rock Olympic Distance Triathlon: Steve Edwards (2:41:30, 63rd place) and Bob Abbruzzese (2:49:40,) completed the Big Rock Olympic Distance Triathlon at Perris on Nov 7. Strong work!

With Sympathy...

The Chief's Office is saddened to announce the passing of Mrs. Campos, the mother of Battalion Chief David Campos and Retired Captain Daniel Campos. Mrs Campos passed away the morning of Dec 1 with her family around her. Please keep the Campos family in your thoughts. Services were held on Dec 9 at the Fellowship Baptist Church



Retiree Updates



Retired Captain Randy Malcarne underwent surgery on his cervical spine on Nov 25. He had extensive impingement on the nerves that go to his arms from the spine. It was affecting his motor-sensory nerves and the strength and motion in his left arm and somewhat on the right. They fused C-2 thru C-7 (plate and screws) and cleaned out the spinal column. Randy's wife, Shelley, was able to bring Randy home on Thanksgiving, and she says he is doing great. He can now move his left arm above his waist where couldn't move it before. His biggest complaint is the bad sore throat which he was told he would have since they had to move things in there to get to the spine. According to Shelley, the doctor assured Randy that he was "so jacked up, his golf game could only improve now."

Retired Captain Roger Marquis and his wife Ronda updated RFD personnel on the surgery of retired **Battalion Chief Spud Chapman**. Spud had spine surgery on Thanksgiving. They visited him at Riverside Community Hospital and said that he was doing well and feeling quite motivated to return home. Spud retired from the RFD over 20 years ago, and his father served as a Chief Officer prior to him being hired by the department.

MetroLink Kickoff

The RFD participated in the Kick-off for the Spark of Love Toy Drive. The Metro Link Holiday Express kicked off the toy drive in Rancho Cucamonga this year. RFD sent an engine to the event staffed by volunteers Tim Odebralski, Anna Hauldren, Lisa Holloway, and several fire explorers. The toy drive continues from Nov 21 through Dec 24. The campaign invites the public to drop off new, unwrapped toys at fire stations.

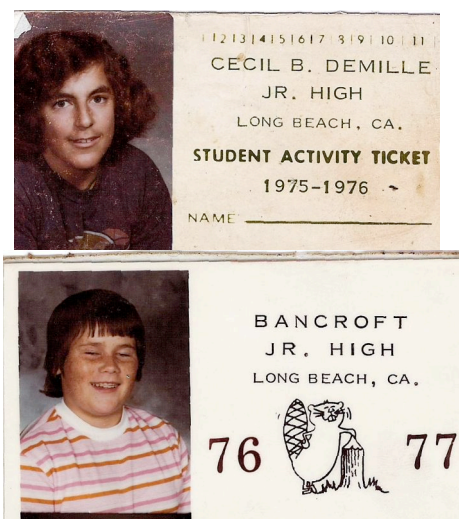
The Holiday Express came through Riverside on Nov 28. It stopped at the Downtown Station at 6:15pm and the La Sierra Station at 7:15pm. Apparatus attended the events. Volunteers Chris Adams and his wife Michelle, Anna Hauldren, Gale Schulte, Christopher Schulte, Roni Forst, and many fire explorers helped collect the toys at the train stations. Hundreds of toys were collected between the two stops.



Mission Inn Nightwalkers



Several RFD members participated in the Mission Inn Run/Walk on Nov 8: Dana Roa (5K) and her husband Tim (10K); Mitch Wesche, Hector Calvillo and his wife Rosio, and Matt Stibal (1/2 marathon); Brian Davis and Brian Fuentes ran the 10K with the RCC Fire Academy class; Public Safety Communications had a team sponsored by RPOA (the Nightwalkers) including: Diane Silva, Corrie Goedhart, Tanya Richardson, Shannon Hoagland, Shannon Lopez, Toni Burbank, Gail Muench, Christina Rodriguez, Janene Amador Atimalala Peterson, and Lisa Holloway

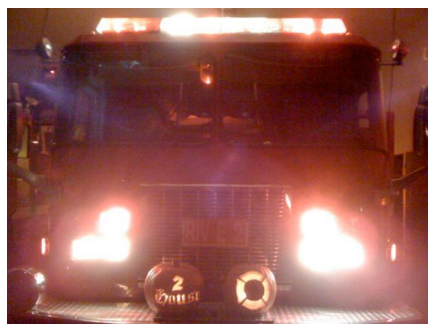


Can you guess the names of these Long Beach junior high students who are now working for the RFD?

PHOTO ALBUM



Above: Tim Vanderhorst with Sam's daughter, Dakota. This is her first kitchen safety lesson.



Left: Station 2B pumpkin carving art.
Right: Station 10C's handiwork



Photo Album



RFD members attended and instructed at Rescue System 1 & 2 classes at our Training Tower in November. Bennett and Schlom love their iPhone editing features. Top right corner photo was submitted to prove that even with all Station 3's specialized equipment, sometimes handtools and cribbing gets the job done